Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 214523

41

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 EB-07 ACDA-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02

EUR-12 SAJ-01 /094 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/CH:RSDRISCOLL:MG:JN APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN ARA/AND/P:ASCFULLER ARA/AND/E:JAALLITTO

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R 301452Z AUG 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA AMEMBASSY QUITO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SHUM, MASS, ECON

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR TRUCCO'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN

1. TRUCCO CAME IN AUGUST 26 ON INSTRUCTIONS TO EXPRESS THE GOC'S EXTREME CONCERN OVER REPORTS THAT THE PERUVIANS ARE BUYING SOVIET AIRCRAFT. HE REFERRED TO THE NYT ARTICLE OF AUGUST 12 AND SAID THIS PURCHASE WOULD MAKE THE EXISTING ARMS IMBALANCE MORE ACUTE AS WELL AS INSTALLING A SOVIET "INFRASTRUCTURE" IN PERU. TRUCCO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE ASKING FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE SECRETARY TO CONVEY THE GOC'S ALARM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 214523

2. SHLAUDEMAN SAID WE COULD NOT CONFIRM THAT THE

SOVIET SALE HAS BEEN MADE BUT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE CONCERNED BY SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. HE NOTED FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA HUENTE'S STATEMENT ON SOLICITING "BIDS" FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES FOR AIRCRAFT AND CONFIRMED THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED POSSIBLE AIRCRAFT ACQUISITIONS WITH THE PERUVIANS. SHLAUDEMAN ASKED IF THE CHILEANS MIGHT NOT WANT TO RAISE THE ISSUE DIRECTLY WITH THE PERUVIANS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TALKS ON ARMS LIMITATIONS.

- 3. TRUCCO RESPONDED WITH A LENGTHY REVIEW OF THESE TALKS AND THE RELATED DISCUSSIONS ON BOLIVIA'S OUTLET TO THE SEA. HE ACCUSED THE PERUVIANS OF STALLING ON BOTH CASES. THE SOVIETS ARE EGGING THE PERUVIANS ON. THEY WANT TO GET CHILE INTO AN ARMS RACE WHICH CHILE CANNOT REALLY AFFORD. TRUCCO CLAIMED THAT THE GOP HAD RECENTLY NEGOTIATED ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS WITH COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR. PERU'S EFFORTS ARE ALL DIRECTED AGAINST CHILE.
- 4. TRUCCO ALSO LEFT A LIST OF REQUESTED ACTIONS ON PENDING MILITARY PURCHASES WHICH WE WILL COVER IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.
- 5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON ANY ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PERU AND COLOMBIA OR ECUADOR. ON THE CONTRARY, ECUADOR HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE IMPROVED HAWK MISSLE SYSTEM BECAUSE OF THE GOE'S CONCERN ABOUT PERUVIAN ARMS PURCHASES. ADDRESSEES SHOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES TO SUGGEST THAT THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION GET INTO SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON ARMS LIMITATIONS. WE BELIEVE THE CHILEANS AND PERU'S OTHER NEIGHBORS COULD USEFULLY EXPRESS THEIR JUSTIFIED ALARM TO THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS TO US. ANY THOUGHTS THE POSTS MAY HAVE ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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